

# **Introduction to the Monthly Deemed Notice**

## **What Is the Purpose of This Notice?**

The purpose of the notice is to make people who automatically qualify for extra help paying for prescription drugs aware that Medicare prescription drug coverage is available to them, and to let them know that they will get extra help without needing to apply for it.

## **Who Will Get This Notice?**

Medicare will mail the notice to people in Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) and people who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These individuals do not have to apply to receive the extra help, but will get it automatically.

## **When Will People Get This Notice?**

This notice will be mailed on a monthly basis beginning in November 2005.

## **What Should People Do Next?**

People who get this notice have the opportunity to join a Medicare drug plan in their area.

If they do not choose a plan on their own by May 15, 2006, Medicare will help them to enroll in a plan (effective June 1, 2006) to make sure they have coverage and don't have to pay a penalty.

If people have questions about the information in the notice, direct them to do the following:

- Read their "Medicare & You" handbook for more information about choosing and enrolling in a Medicare drug plan.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.



<BENEFICIARY FULL NAME>

<ADDRESS>

<CITY, STATE ZIP>

All people with Medicare can join a Medicare drug plan and get new Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Our records show that you currently get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, **or** you get help from Medicaid paying your Medicare premiums.

### **Why am I getting this notice?**

Because you get SSI benefits or help from Medicaid, you get extra help from Medicare to pay for your Medicare drug plan costs. This means you will only pay up to \$2 for a generic drug and up to \$5 for a brand-name drug. You qualify for these low costs beginning January 1, 2006.

You don't need to apply for this extra help from Medicare to pay for Medicare prescription drug coverage because you automatically qualify. If you have filed an application for extra help with the Social Security Administration or your state, it won't be processed because we already know you qualify.

### **What should I do now?**

You need to join a Medicare drug plan to get the extra help paying for your drug costs.

- Find out about the specific Medicare drug plans available in your area by visiting [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web or calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).
- Compare the Medicare drug plans available to find one that meets your needs. Find out which plans cover your drugs, the cost of each plan, and each plan's pharmacy and mail order options.
- Join a Medicare drug plan that meets your needs. Call the company offering the plan you want to join and ask, "How do I join?"

If you have questions about Medicare prescription drug coverage, the information in this letter, or want help joining a Medicare drug plan, do the following:

- Read your "Medicare & You" handbook.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**Para obtener una copia de este aviso en español, llame gratis al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 1-877-486-2048.**